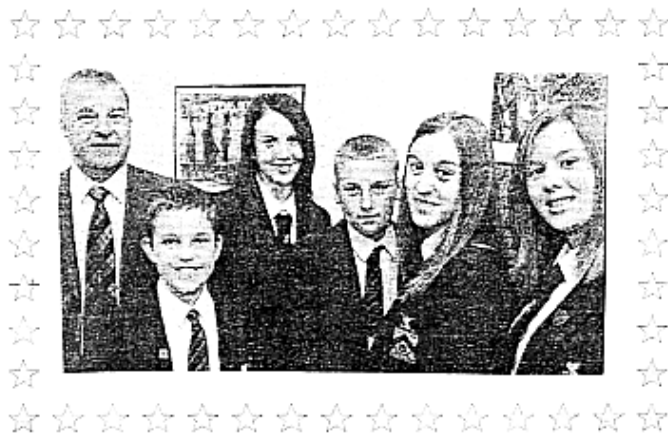




JANUARY 2005

THIS YEAR'S LEAGUE TABLES ARE THE BOROUGH'S BEST EVER RESULTS

| School | Number of pupils | A*-C grades five or more (LEA rank) | Last Year A*-C's |
|-------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| Fred Longworth High | 1339 | 62% (6) | 54% |
| Bedford High | 1228 | 39% (15) | 46% |
| Golborne High | 837 | 58% (8) | 54% |
| Hesketh Fletcher C of E | 999 | 38% (17) | 39% |
| Hindley Community | 921 | 38% (18) | 37% |
| Lowton Community | 1130 | 50% (11) | 57% |
| St. Mary's Catholic HS | 1713 | 56% (9) | 60% |
| Westleigh High | 756 | 31% (20) | 44% |



Leigh's secondary schools were today congratulated after this year's performance tables showed the borough's best ever results.

Fred Longworth led the way in Leigh coming in sixth in the attainment table for all of Wigan and Leigh's secondary schools. The number of pupils at the Tyldesley school passing 5 or more GCSEs at A* to Cs in last summer's exams shot up to 62% - a rise of 8% on the previous year.

Truancy rates at the school were amongst the lowest in the borough with 0.2% unauthorised pupil absences.

The overall affect across Wigan and Leigh means an average of 51.2% of school leavers now finish their secondary education with at least 5 A* to C grades.

It represents a rise of 4.1% in the last four years and despite being below the national average of 53.7% shows the gap is closing.

Nationally rates have only increased by an average 3.7% since 2001.

Director of Education Ged Rowney said: "We continue to see a year on year improvement in school leavers. This is a tribute to everyone in the education service. Councillor, and cabinet member for Children's Services, Brian Wilson added: "We know that many young people have worthwhile interests outside school and as we move towards new approaches in the education of young people between the ages of 14-19 it becomes more important to have a wider view of education and qualifications."

Fred Longworth High School's headteacher Tony Colley is delighted to have topped the Leigh tables.

The school was ranked 6th out of 21 secondary schools across the whole of the borough and showed a marked improvement in the number of A* to C passes achieved at GCSE in 2004. At 62% this represented a jump of 8% points from the 2003 result (54%).

Mr. Colley said: "We are very pleased about the result but see it as a reflection of trying our best and being a good school. It is nothing else but testament to the hard work of our students, teachers and governors."

"League table performance can change from year to year but at Fred Longworth we have been consistent in our performance for a number of years and have this year seen a slight improvement."

"These league tables are understandably important to parents but they are based purely on exam results and a lot more goes on in schools than these tables show."

Rankings are based on the school's value added score, which compares the performance at GCSE with the average of children who achieved a similar score at Key Stage 3.

It is intended to show whether schools enabled children to maintain or improve in educational attainment in comparison with their performance in earlier years.

(Based on an article in the Leigh Reporter 13.1.05)

**COMMUNITY DRAMA PIECE:
"ARE YOU SITTING COMFORTABLY?"**



Fifteen Drama students, ranging from Year 8 to Year 10, have recently produced a piece of drama aimed at tackling the issue of bullying. The piece explored the consequences of bullying through the eyes of victim and bully. It was aimed at making students think about their own actions.

The performance was shown to students in assembly and was toured around local primary schools. Feedback from the schools was positive.

Boothstown Methodist Primary School commented that: "It was a privilege to watch a performance of such high quality. The message was extremely powerful."

K. McLeod - Drama Department

THE SHAKESPEARE SCHOOLS FESTIVAL

Twenty four Year 10 and Year 11 students performed a thirty minute version of Shakespeare's "The Tempest" at the Albert Halls, Bolton on 19th October, as part of The Shakespeare Schools Festival.



The production was described by the Bolton Evening News theatre critic as colourful, magical and "a delight".

The group went on to perform the piece in school, along with Hesketh Fletcher's production of "Romeo and Juliet" and the two pieces were then shown at Hesketh Fletcher High School the following week.

A lot of hard work and extra-curricular time went into this challenging project and the Drama department would like to thank the cast and the many staff who contributed to its success.

A. Watts



Nim Higher Dance Project

The aim of this project is to devise a collaborative piece of dance with a group of Year 10 girls from Fred Longworth High School and 2nd year HND students from Liverpool Community College.

Both groups will participate in 2½ days of intensive training to devise a dance piece based on the "environment". This will then be toured to local primary schools in February.

For more information please contact Miss Rowley (Community Arts Co-ordinator) on 01942 883796.



COLLEGE IN THE COMMUNITY

FREE courses for adults

Digital Photography

Child Care/Development

Garden Design

Update your maths skills



Contact Janice or Alison for details

On Friday 28th January Martin Offiah MBE, will be visiting Fred Longworth High School.



Martin Offiah is the most famous rugby league player the British game has ever produced.

Most recently Martin was a contestant on the BBC Saturday night prime time show "Strictly Come Dancing", where he reached the final four celebrities (out of 8) - dancing with the world's top latin and ballroom dancing champions.



Martin will be given a tour of the Dance, Drama and Music departments and hopefully participate in a movement session with a year 10 boys' group.

We hope Martin enjoys his visit at the school.

Dates for the Diary

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Year 9 Options Evening | Tuesday 25th January |
| Year 9 Options Interviews | Monday 31st January–Friday 4th February |
| Year 11 Mentoring | Wednesday 2nd February |
| Staff Training Day | Friday 11th February (School closed for students) |
| Half Term Holiday | Monday 14th February–Friday 18th February (inclusive) |
| Return to School | Monday 21st February |
| Year 10/11 Modular Science Exams | Wednesday 2nd March |
| Year 8 Parents' Evening | Tuesday 15th March |
| Progress Review Day | Friday 18th March (Students attend by appointment) |
| Easter Holiday | Monday 21st March–Friday 1st April (inclusive) |
| Return to School | Monday 4th April |

DISABILITY YOUTH DANCE

This project will provide 13-18 years with learning difficulties the opportunity to participate in dance workshops.

The session will begin on Wednesday 2nd February 2005 at Tanfield Special School from 6.00 p.m.–7.30 p.m.



For more information please contact Miss L. Rowley as soon as possible as places will be limited.



SCHOOL UNIFORM CHANGES FROM SEPTEMBER 2005

School uniform will be available from "Wendy's" in Tyldesley and "Boardman's" in Leigh.

Following consultation with a representative sample of parents, governors and students the following changes were agreed:

Ties

Each year group will wear a black tie with the school logo on it and a diagonal stripe in the year colour. From September 2005:

- Y7 - blue
- Y8 - cream
- Y9 - green
- Y10 - gold
- Y11 - black



Y7 in 2006 will be purple

NB Students keep their year colour from Y7 to Y10

Girls Skirts



These must be the style selected with a school logo.

Girls and Boys Trousers

These must be the style selected with a school logo on the pocket.



Top Coats

These should be plain black, cream or navy as now. No sports tops permitted. Our suppliers can provide a reversible black fleece/waterproof jacket if desired. Prices start at £12.99.

